AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Cancelled)**

2. **(Currently Amended)** A phosphoramidite method for the synthesis of a nucleic acid oligomer without protecting the base moiety, which comprises:

contacting a phosphoramidite nucleic acid or a phosphoramidite nucleic acid analogue with ~~the use of~~ an activator, which is a mixture of an alcohol-type compound selected from the group consisting of hydroxybenzotriazole-1-ol (HOBt), a HOBt-derivative and a phenol analogue; and an acid catalyst; to form a nucleic acid oligomer ~~as an activator~~.

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 2, wherein the HOBt-derivative has substituents at its 4 and/or 6 positions.

5. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 4, wherein the HOBt-derivative is 6-trifluoromethylbenzotriazole-1-ol, 6-nitrobenzotriazole-1-ol, or 4-nitro-6-trifluoromethyl benzotriazole-1-ol.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 3~~, wherein the phenol analogue is selected from the group consisting of 2,4-dinitrophenol, 3,4-dicyanophenol and 2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenol.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 2, wherein the acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, tetrazole and their derivatives.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 7, wherein ~~the acid catalyst is~~ said derivatives are benzimidazoletriflate (BIT), 4-ethylthiotetrazole, imidazolium triflate or 4,5-dicyanoimidazole.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 2, wherein said activator comprises ~~a mixture comprising~~ an equal amount of the alcohol-type compound and the acid catalyst ~~is used as the activator~~.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 2, wherein said method is carried out with the use of a solid phase support.

11. - 13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 2, wherein the mixture of 6-trifluoromethylbenzotriazole-1-ol and benzimidazoletriflate is used as the activator.

15. (New) A phosphoramidite method for the synthesis of a nucleic acid oligomer without protecting the base moiety, which comprises:

contacting a phosphoramidite nucleic acid or a phosphoramidite nucleic acid analogue with an activator, which is a mixture of an alcohol-type compound selected from the group consisting of hydroxybenzotriazole-1-ol (HOBt), 6-trifluoromethylbenzotriazole-1-ol, 6-nitrobenzotriazole-1-ol, 4-nitro-6-trifluoromethyl benzotriazole-1-ol, 2,4-dinitrophenol, 3,4-dicyanophenol and 2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenol; and an acid catalyst selected from the group consisting of imidazole, tetrazole, benzimidazoletriflate (BIT), 4-ethylthiotetrazole, imidazolium triflate(trifluoromethane sulfonate) and 4,5-dicyanoimidazole; to form a nucleic acid oligomer.